

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 21 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter and amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus arranged to connect, via a network, to a plurality of external services, each of which provides a service for processing image data generated in the image reading apparatus, the image reading apparatus comprising:

an image reading unit, arranged configured to read an image on an original document and output generate image data thereof corresponding to the read image;

connecting unit, arranged to connect to at least one external service providing at least one service for the image data output from said image reading unit via a network;

personalized service information an acquiring unit, arranged configured to acquire personalized service information for personalizing the service so that an operator can use the service, the personalized service information being associated with each of operators and with each of the external services, and being used for ordering a service from one of the external services;

a personalizing unit, arranged configured to personalize a setting screen, a setting procedure, and contents of setting for the operator according to the acquired personalized service information; and

a transmitting unit, ~~arranged~~ configured to transmit various settings based on the setting screen, setting procedure, and contents of setting personalized for the operator by said personalizing unit, together with the generated image data via the network to ~~the~~ an external service selected by the operator.

2. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ~~personalized service information~~ acquiring unit comprises:

a reading unit, ~~arranged~~ configured to read operator identification information and the personalized service information corresponding to the operator from a detachable storage medium; and

an identification unit, ~~arranged~~ configured to identify the operator according to the operator identification information read from the storage medium.

3. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ~~personalized service information~~ acquiring unit comprises:

a wireless communication unit, ~~arranged~~ configured to communicate with a storage medium capable of carrying out wireless communication, the storage medium storing operator identification information and the personalized service information corresponding to the operator; and

an identification unit, ~~arranged~~ configured to identify the operator according to the operator identification information stored in the storage medium.

4. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein an external server holding the personalized service information associated with respective operator identification information is connected to the network, and said ~~personalized service information~~ acquiring unit transmits operator identification information to the external server via the network, and acquires the personalized service information corresponding to the transmitted operator identification information from the external server.

5. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein an external server holding personalized service information associated with respective operator identification information and respective apparatus identification information is connected to the network, and said ~~personalized service information~~ acquiring unit transmits operator identification information and apparatus identification information to the external server via the network, and acquires personalized service information corresponding to the transmitted operator identification information and apparatus identification information from the external server.

6. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the ~~external service comprises a~~ plurality of external services ~~existing~~ exist on the Internet, and the external server exists on an intranet.

7. (Original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the personalized service information includes identification information on services to be used by the operator, and defaults of various settings for the services to be used.

8. (Original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the personalized service information includes identification information on services to be used by the operator, and setting values which can be set by the operator for the services to be used.

9. (Original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the personalized service information includes identification information on services to be used by the operator, and setting values inhibited from being used for the services to be used.

10. (Original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the personalized service information includes identification information on services to be used by the operator, and setting values which can be used by the operator for the services to be used.

11. (Original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the personalized service information includes identification information to be used by the operator, and setting items inhibited from being used for the services to be used.

12. (Original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the external service is inhibited from being used when said personalizing unit omits personalization of the service to be used.

13. (Original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the external service provides a print and book-binding service for the transmitted image data, and said transmitting unit transmits, as the various settings for the external service, settings relating to print format and book-binding format for the print and book-binding service.

14. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the external service[[s]] comprise a print and book-binding service for the transmitted image data, and said transmitting unit transmits, as the various settings for the external service, settings relating to an address for delivery of a printout obtained by the print and book-binding service.

15. (Original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the personalized service information includes information indicative of an address of the operator as the address for delivery.

16. (Original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the personalized service information includes information indicative of the operator as who is to be charged for the service.

17. (Original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the personalized service information includes part of authentication data to be used for user authentication when the operator uses the service.

18. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ~~personalized service information~~ acquiring unit acquires plural pieces of personalized service information, and said personalizing unit comprises selecting means for selecting a desired service from among services personalized for the operator according to the acquired plural pieces of personalized service information.

19. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim 18, further comprising an adding unit, arranged configured to add various settings as to the service personalized for the operator according to the acquired personalized service information as new personalized service information to the acquired personalized service information.

20. (Currently Amended) A personalizing method for an image reading apparatus arranged to connect, via a network, to a plurality of external services, each of which provides a service for processing image data generated in the image reading apparatus, the personalizing method comprising ~~comprising an image reading unit arranged to read an image on an original and output image data thereof, and connecting unit arranged to connect to at least one external service providing at least one service for the image data output from the image reading unit via a network, the method comprising:~~

an image reading step of reading an image on an original document and generating image data corresponding to the read image;

~~a personalized service information~~ an acquiring step of acquiring personalized service information, the personalized service information being associated with each of operators and with each of the external services, and being used for ordering a service from one of the external services ~~for personalizing the service so that an operator can use the service;~~

a personalizing step of personalizing a setting screen, a setting procedure, and contents of setting for the operator according to the acquired personalized service information; and

a transmitting step of transmitting various settings based on the setting screen, setting procedure, and contents of setting personalized for the operator according to the acquired personalized service information acquired in said personalizing step, together with the generated image data via the network to ~~the~~ an external service selected by the operator.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer program for controlling an image reading apparatus arranged to connect, via a network, to a plurality of external services, each of which provides a service for processing image data generated in the image reading apparatus, the computer program comprising program codes for performing ~~according to claim 21 for reading by a computer;~~

an image reading step of reading an image on an original document and generating image data corresponding to the read image;

an acquiring step of acquiring personalized service information, the personalized service information being associated with each of operators and with each of the external services, and being used for ordering a service from one of the external services;

a personalizing step of personalizing a setting screen, a setting procedure, and contents of setting for the operator according to the acquired personalized service information; and

a transmitting step of transmitting various settings based on the setting screen, setting procedure, and contents of setting personalized for the operator in said personalizing step, together with the generated image data via the network to an external service selected by the operator.